Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 IO-13 /079 W

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R 070330Z SEP 78 FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1007 INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR AMEMBASSY LONDON

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STATE FOR EB/TT/OA

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, HK, MY, UK, US

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE/UK AGREEMENT: FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS IN HONG KONG

- 1. MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS STAFFER CALLED EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 6 TO PASS ALONG INFORMATION THAT SINGAPORE AND THE UK HAVE COMPLETED NEGOTIATIONS ALLOWING SIA FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS IN SINGAPORE ON ITS SINGAPORE TO US WEST COAST COMBINATION SERVICE. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE SEPTEMBER 7.
- 2. ACCORDING TO GOS OFFICIAL, FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS FOR SIA WERE OBTAINED IN EXCHANGE FOR ADDITIONAL CATHAY PACIFIC RIGHTS TO AND BEYOND SINGAPORE. ALTHOUGH HE GAVE NO DETAILS, OFFICIAL SAID NEW CPA RIGHTS WOULD INCLUDE STOPS IN VIETNAM AND EAST MALAYSIA.
- 3. COMMENT: CPA RIGHTS THROUGH MALAYSIA MAY BE SOMEWHAT CONTROVERSIAL IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBLEMS FACING SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA IN ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS TO REVISE THEIR BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT. SINGAPORE HAS THREATENED TO UNILATERALLY REDUCE MALAYSIA AIRLINES SYSTEM'S RIGHTS TO SINGAPORE IF MALAYSIA DOES NOT AGREE TO A MORE "EQUITABLE" BALANCE OF SIA AND MAS SERVICE. MALAYSIA HAS THREATENED TO RETALIATE FOR ANY SUCH GOS CUTBACK AND

CLAIMS THAT THE PRESENT BALANCE OF AIR SERVICE IS EQUITABLE BECAUSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ROUTES THAT MAS CEDED TO SIA WHEN THE OLD MALAYSIA-SINGAPORE AIRLINES WAS BROKEN UP INTO SEPARATE SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA NATIONAL CARRIERS. KNEIP

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TAGS: EAIR, HK, MY, UK, US, SIA

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